

Both ready for tonight's bout

Leonard, Hearns await bell

United Press International
LAS VEGAS — Sugar Ray Leonard's route to the World Boxing Council welterweight title came under the bright lights of Easy Street. Thomas Hearns traveled dark and unpaved roads to the World Boxing Association welterweight crown.

The two were set to meet today at a noon EDT weigh-in for the final time before tonight's long-awaited, scheduled 15-rounder for the undisputed welterweight title. Neither fighter was expected to have any problem making the division's 147-pound limit.

With an expected closed-circuit and pay-television audience of 300 million, the fight, in a specially built, 25,000-seat outdoor arena at Caesars Palace will be the richest in the history of boxing. Leonard has been guaranteed \$8 million and Hearns \$5 million and promoters expected a gross approaching \$40 million.

Leonard, 30-1 with 21 knockouts, was the darling of the 1976 Olympics and rose to almost immediate fame as television's golden boy. He won the WBC title by

stopping Wilfred Benitez in 1979 then lost it last year to Roberto Duran in a grueling 15-round bout in Montreal. But Leonard regained the crown five months later when Duran turned in his infamous "no-mas" performance in New Orleans, quitting in the eighth round.

Hearns, 32-0 with 30 knockouts, rose through the ranks with little attention despite easily dispatching every opponent. He became well known only when he won the WBA title by humiliating champion Pipino Cuevas with a second-round knockout in August 1979.

Leonard relies on his enormous boxing skills. He is the classic boxer, using a flicking left jab to set up lightning combinations.

Hearns has built his record and reputation on two simple weapons: a powerful jab and sledgehammer right hand. At 6-foot-1 with a 78-inch reach, he is a physical freak for the welterweight division. He's also the most devastating puncher in the division's history.

The oddsmakers haven't been

able to determine a clear-cut favorite. They've listed the fighters as dead even.

Leonard has referred to Hearns as a "robot," saying he's unable to adapt when his fight plan goes astray.

"He knows only one way to fight and I can adapt to different styles," Leonard said. "I go into each fight with a plan and I fight each fight differently."

"I'm going to beat him so badly that he's going to crawl into a shell and disappear."

Hearns, generally solemn, smiles when he hears Leonard talk. He said he's going to prove to his critics that he isn't a non-thinking brawler.

"People think I'm just a puncher because of all the knockouts," said Hearns. "But I consider myself a good boxer. I was always a good boxer throughout the amateurs. I think I have an excellent jab and hook. The knockouts come after I hurt people with the left hand."

Both fighters trained hard and appeared in excellent condition. Temperatures were expected to

be in the 90s for the fight, making conditioning vital.

The bout is being promoted by Main Event, Inc., a New Jersey-based group which runs one of the most successful club programs in the nation in Totowa, N.J.

Brett's temper flares again

United Press International
ANAHEIM, Calif. — Kansas City Royals' third baseman George Brett allegedly slapped a woman reporter in the face Tuesday morning then punched another reporter who came to her aid, a witness said.

The fight in the lobby of the Anaheim Hyatt Regency started when Brett began needling Kansas City Times' sports reporter Mike Fish.

The Royals' star player reportedly criticized Fish for doing a May 31 story about Brett's demolishing a locker room toilet with his baseball bat after having a bad game against the Minnesota Twins.

Janice Carr, a former Los Angeles Times reporter who was with Fish, told Brett if he wanted to be in the limelight, "he had to accept those kinds of things."

At that point, Brett slapped Carr in the face and Fish stepped in to prevent him from striking her again.

Dean Vogelaa, a team press agent, tried to sepa-

rate the two men, but Fish came out of the fight with a 2-inch gash over his right eye and several scratches on his face.

Royals' General Manager Joe Burke issued a formal apology to Fish, saying:

"We don't condone this type of action by our people. We're sorry about it. It won't happen again, and won't be tolerated."

It was unknown if the club was considering any disciplinary action against Brett, but Vogelaa said Brett met with Fish before Tuesday night's game and apologized for the incident.

Fish had no comment, except to say, "I intend to invite Brett to my next block party."

Brett, who led the major leagues in batting last season with a .390 average and won the American League's Most Valuable Player Award, has been struggling this year and has had several temperamental outbursts.

TANK McNAMARA



by Jeff Millar & Bill Hinds



Football coupon books must be picked up soon

Students who have ordered football coupon tickets but have not yet picked them up have until 5 p.m. Friday, Sept. 25 to do so, according to the Athletic Ticket Office.

The student must have a coupon book in order to pick up his ticket(s) to any Texas A&M football game.

Coupon books may be picked up at the ticket booth outside Gate 1 of Kyle Field, just behind DeWare Fieldhouse.

After the Sept. 25 deadline students may pick them up at the Athletic Business Office in G. Rollie White.

Students are once again reminded of the ticket distribution schedule. On Monday before each home game graduate students and seniors may pick up their tickets. On Tuesday juniors may pick up their tickets. Wednesday sophomores and Thursday freshmen can pick theirs up.

For out of town games seniors and graduates may pick their tickets up on Monday morning. Juniors and sophomores Tuesday and freshmen Wednesday morning.

Coupon books must be presented to one of eight ticket windows at G. Rollie White with a current Texas A&M University ID in order to exchange them for a ticket.

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